

MAR 09 2005

Docket No. HRT288

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Gannoe et al.
Serial No. : 09/993,175 Art Unit : 3732
Filed : November 6, 2001 Examiner : P. Philogene
Title : Apparatus and Method for Cardiac Surgery

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being faxed on March 9, 2005
to the United States Patent & Trademark Office at (703) 672-9302

/s/ Tomko/

Brian S. Tomko

(Name of applicant, assignee, or registered representative)

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated September 13, 2004, the time for responding having been extended by petition (appended to this Amendment), please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this document.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this document.